

# TORAH TIMES

March 2026

12 Adar—13 Nisan



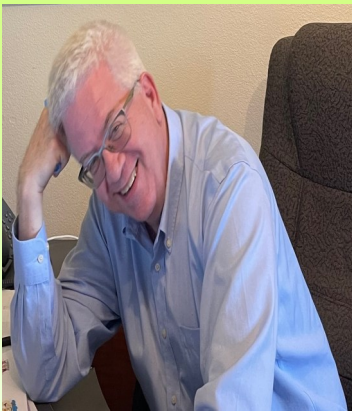
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**Last chance for our Gala Gourmet Dinner!**

## A Message From Rabbi Kane



Judaism was the original source of the life coaching concept called "Time Remaining."

In a nutshell the idea involves a system which changes our emphases of living depending on how much time we have left, sometimes in a place or situation, but more often in this life.

What would we do if we only had a year, a month, a day left?

According to our faith tradition, someday the current era of humanity will end. The Messiah will come and along with him, our last chance to do a mitzvah before Judgment Day. This is important because after Judgment Day the unworthy will not continue, and the worthy will inherit a new paradise type existence.

"Treat each day as if the Messiah were coming tomorrow," expresses our wisdom (also kept as part of Christianity and Islam when each was founded).

If we wanted to take this instruction literally, challenges immediately arise.

Suppose we did only have one day left AND somehow, we knew it. What should we do with that day? Go to work?

"No!" we might shout...but what if our work is about helping people with their pain? or hunger? or a thousand other challenges?

Someone might suggest, "Spend the Day with your loved ones, obviously." One more hug. One more "I love you." One more closure. And then? Maybe the whole family can embrace a person or a need?

Fans of the Pitt TV Show will recognize this Hawaiian Farewell toward a loved one who is imminently passing:

"I love you. Thank you. I forgive you. Please forgive me".

From a Jewish point of view, because our souls are in some way eternal, this works if the person you are talking to is in a hospice bed holding your hand or has already passed days, months, or years ago.

My father passed over 30 years ago and today I tried it with him.

"I love you. Thank you. I forgive you. Please forgive me".

And something shifted. Perhaps something holy.

Maybe we all have someone to try it with.

**Finally, this.....**

What if we tried it with people in our lives right now? Healing relationships not for some kind of closure, but for the sake compassion for others and for ourselves.

Surely, the Messiah would take note.

Why?

Because we would already be creating Paradise.

***Rabbi S. David Kane***



# The Presidents' Message



Dear Fellow Congregants and Rabbi Kane,

Hard to believe, but we are already in the third month of 2026! Here is a short recap of significant events in the Jewish World at large, both positive and negative from January to now:

**Historic Aliyah: 96-year-old Holocaust survivor Charlotte Roth formally completed her Aliyah to Israel on February 18; a move celebrated as a testament to resilience.**

**Tu BiShvat Celebrations:** The "New Year for Trees" on February 2 was marked globally with environmental initiatives, including "Mitzvah Makers" events where families potted plants for seniors.

**Heightened Antisemitism:** The American Jewish Committee (AJC) released its annual State of Antisemitism in America Report on February 10, revealing that 91% of American Jews feel less safe. **Campus Incidents:** As of February 26, 2026, 1,187 antisemitic incidents have been tracked on U.S. college campuses for the 2025–2026 academic year. **New York City (NYPD): Data released in early February showed a "staggering" 182% increase in anti-Jewish hate crimes in January 2026 compared to the previous year.** Our world continues to change, be aware, be diligent.

For Congregation B'nai Torah February was an eventful month as March promises to be. A few highlights from February-Laura Youngblood's Bat Mitzvah, such a beautiful voice and execution of your haftarah; Shalom School continues to bring vibrant Jewish education to its students; the Men's Club had a regional gathering in Palm Coast. called the FJMC Shabbaton Retreat, with a collaboration of our Sisterhood and Palm Coast's Sisterhood to provide delicious meals, with a special thanks to many volunteers including Lea, Joe, Mark, Jerry, Ken, and Jay for making it happen; we had our Community Wide Shabbat Service with the Federation at Temple Beth-El at the end of January, which was well attended.

March starts with the joint Purim Carnival at Beth-El; a Festive Purim Party with Megillah Reading; dinner for the Serkin's and Rhodes at my house for their contribution to our auction, followed by our Gourmet Fund Raiser on the 8th at my house too, with help from Barbara Kusnick on food preparation; fund raising events continue to encourage excitement, especially the upcoming May Poker Tournament.

I can never say enough thank you's to everyone who gives their time and love to CBT, a special call out to Alan Kisseloff for his assistance with our website and to all that have donated to the greater good of CBT, words will never be enough. On the other end of the spectrum, please pay your dues as soon as possible as we come closer to closing out our year, it would be greatly appreciated. Please feel free to reach out to me or Barbara for any assistance.

With gratitude for the blessings we share, let us welcome each day with hope, courage, and a commitment to making our world a little brighter for one another, our community, those in need, and for ourselves. With compassion, mercy, intent, and love, wishing your health and prosperity,

**Howard**

# THE KABBALAH KORNER BY HOWARD

**March 2026**

**Adar– Nisan 5786**

In March 2026, the Kabbalistic calendar transitions from the month of Adar to the month of Nissan, marking a significant shift from the energy of hidden miracles and joy to the energy of redemption and miracles. Here are some key Kabbalistic and Spiritual Themes for March 2026 (Adar/Nisan 5786):

**Beginning of March: Adar (Joy and Concealment):** The month begins in Adar, associated with the zodiac sign of Pisces (Dagim). This is a time of "hidden" miracles, where spiritual light is revealed through unexpected, natural, or coincidental events (as in the Purim story).

**March 2-4: Purim and Ta'anit Esther:**

**March 2 (13 Adar):** Fast of Esther, a time for introspection and invoking the inner strength to change reality.

**March 3-4 (14-15 Adar):** Purim and Shushan Purim. Kabbalistically, this is the highest level of joy, breaking down all barriers to access divine light.

**Mid-March: Preparation for Redemption:** As Adar concludes, the focus shifts toward preparation for Passover.

**March 18/19 (1 Nissan):** Rosh Chodesh Nissan (New Moon of Nissan/Aries). This marks the start of the month of redemption and the Kabbalistic "New Year" for months. It is considered a time of revealed, open miracles.

**March 19-31: The 12 Days of Nissan:** From 1 Nissan to 12 Nissan, the 12 princes (Nesi'im) brought offerings for the dedication of the Mishkan (Tabernacle). Kabbalistically, each of these 12 days corresponds to one of the 12 months, and reciting the special prayers (Nasi) during this time is believed to help rectify, balance, and draw blessings for that month.

**Blessing on Fruit Trees (Birkat Hallanot):** Throughout Nissan, it is a special mitzvah to recite the blessing upon seeing fruit trees in bloom, honoring the renewal of nature and the spiritual potential for growth.

**The Energy of Aries (Nissan):** The month of Nissan is associated with the zodiac sign of Aries, representing "I am" and the proactive energy needed to break out of personal limitations (Exodus/Egypt).

**In summary, March 2026 is a transition from the deep, hidden spiritual work of Purim (Adar) to the proactive, openly miraculous, and transformative energy of Passover (Nissan).**

**For me on a personal spiritual level, the month of March always presented itself as the "Winds of Change", going from darkness to light as the seasons changed, and the groundhog announced how much more winter we had to endure. As a child and adult, Purim gave me the opportunity to not only dress up, eat a lot of hamantaschen, but to let go of my inhibitions to become one with my fellow Jews as the story of Purim was shared. And without realizing it, Becoming One with the Light of Our Creator. AMEN!**

I am sharing this viewpoint from Kabbalah as an opportunity to expound on some of the lessons and teachings that have touched me in many ways to explore and to appreciate my love of Judaism on a deeper level. Thank you for taking the time to read this, with unconditional love, Howard

# Congregation B'nai Torah Religious School Report

By Valerie Kisseloff



## CBT Religious School Updates

February was a full month for our CBT and Shalom School families! Our students spent time exploring the concept of *Tikkun Olam*, or “repairing the world,” learning that even small acts of kindness can have a big impact on people, animals, and the Earth. We connected this idea to *Tu B'Shevat*, the “birthday of the trees,” and talked about how caring for our environment is an important part of our lives. The children decorated their own planters and planted parsley seeds - just in time for us to (hopefully!) watch them grow for our Passover seders. We also extend a heartfelt thank you to Doug and Kiva McEwen for their generous donation of a pomegranate tree.

Our Shalom School students truly enjoyed learning all about pomegranates and the tree-planting ceremony that followed at Congregation B'nai Torah.

Our students were also treated to a very special experience when the *Sefer Haftarah* was on site. Thanks to Mark Givartz for arranging this special center for the children to learn about the Haftarah. Our Rabbis spoke about the parchment it is written on, how long it takes to complete one, and the significance it has during our Torah service.

Toward the end of the month, our classrooms began buzzing with excitement for Purim, as students learned about the holiday and baked delicious hamantaschen. They also packed shalach manot bags to bring home to someone special in their families.

February also brought our monthly Kid & Tot Shabbat and our Youth Group met up in February to begin preparations for the upcoming Purim Carnival, which will be held at Temple Beth El on March 1st. Our teens, alongside a few enthusiastic younger siblings, came together to brainstorm ideas, design, and create unique carnival games that are sure to delight our children and families at the carnival! Our theme this year is “Around the World” so be sure to mark your calendars and join us up the street at TBE for games, food, and fun!

We are so grateful for the energy, creativity, and generosity of our Shalom School families and volunteers. We look forward to celebrating Purim together and continuing to watch our community grow - just like we eagerly await those parsley seeds blossoming into beautiful plants!

### **Save the Date for these upcoming events (all hosted at CBT):**

Sun	Mar. 1	10:00am	Purim Carnival @Temple Beth Ell
Mon	Mar 2	6:00pm	Megillah Reading & Party at CBT
Fri	Mar. 6	6:00pm	Kid & Tot Shabbat @CBT
Sun	Mar. 8	9:00am	Shalom School @CBT
Sun	Mar. 22	1:00pm	Youth Group @Embry-Riddle Baseball Game
Sun	Mar. 29	9:00am	Shalom School Model Seder @CBT

—Val Kisseloff



**Earlier this month Sam Kisseloff and Tobie Jamieson-Keenum both participated in a county wide Math Counts competition. They each represented their respective middle school team.**

**Way to go boys—Keep solving those equations!**



**Micah Dattle and Eli Kisseloff were selected to participate in the Volusia County Social Studies Fair. They were chosen from their schools and presented their exhibits before three judges!**

**We are so proud!**

# Passport to Purim

## The Shalom School Purim Carnival

Sunday, March 1, 2026

10:00AM – 1:00PM

Temple Beth-El



Join us for games, crafts, costume prizes, and treats  
-- start packing now!

Questions? Contact Valerie Kisseloff at [vkisseloff@gmail.com](mailto:vkisseloff@gmail.com)  
or Rabbi Martha at [Rabbimartha@TBEOB.com](mailto:Rabbimartha@TBEOB.com)



The Shalom School is a joint project of The Jewish Federation,  
Congregation B'nai Torah, and Temple Beth-El.

# HAPPY PURIM



**Join Rabbi David**

**&**



**The Congregation B'nai Torah Students**

**for a**

***Megillah Reading & Party!***  
***Make Your Own***  
***Ice Cream Sundaes!***

**Monday, March 2nd at 6 PM**

**Wear a costume *(or at least a hat!)***

פורים שמחה!



A PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE CONGREGATION



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*Enriching Jewish Life*

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# Shalom School & CBT Parent Info

## Let's March into Spring at CBT!

We had a busy February at Congregation B'nai Torah from planting a pomegranate tree to learning about the traveling Sefer Haftarah. We have lots to look forward to in March!

Quick reminder... It's great to send your kiddos to Shalom School with refillable water bottles and Tzedakah money!

### Shalom School Dates

Sun. Mar 1: Purim Carnival, 10am-1pm @TBE

*\*\*Family Event, Parent volunteers needed\*\**

Sun. Mar 8: Shalom School, 9am @CBT

Sun. Mar 29: Shalom School Model Seder, 9am @CBT

*\*\*Parent volunteers needed\*\**

### Megillah Reading & Party

Mon. Mar 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6pm

Wear a costume or hat & come make ice cream sundaes!

### Kid & Tot Shabbat

Fri. Mar 6<sup>th</sup>: Begins promptly at 6pm, Services at 7pm

### **\*Save the Date\***

**Jewish Heritage Festival**

Sun. Apr 12th @The Casements

Questions?

Contact Val Kisseloff at 386.871.0214

# Kid & Tot Shabbat





# PREPARING FOR PURIM CARNIVAL

*Daniel Friedenzohn  
and Jared Kisseloff  
helping out with  
Purim Carnival  
preparations*



*Valerie and  
Dr. Cheryl Kohen  
getting ready  
for the  
Purim Carnival*



## Sisterhood in the News

**Dear CBT Congregants and Sisterhood,**

**Purim Sameach!** Our next Sisterhood meeting will be on March 24th at 2 pm at CBT. We will be having a Sisterhood board meeting at 1 pm ending in time for the regular meeting at 2 pm.

Sisterhood is having a putt-putt golf and dinner March 18th . Spouses and significant others are welcome! Pirate’s Cove Adventure Golf ,226 Cardinal Dr, Ormond Beach, FL 32176 \$16 for 18 holes 4:30 pm play and dinner at 6 pm Peppers Mexican Grill, 794 S Atlantic Ave, Ormond Beach, FL 32176

Sisterhood will be going to Dancing with the Stars Live at Peabody Auditorium on March 25th at 7:30 pm . Please purchase your tickets directly from the venue or ticket agent. **Please rsvp to Barbara Bailen 914-420- 3183.** Plans for dinner before the show will be forthcoming.

Sisterhood is planning to assemble a cookbook in pdf format as a fundraiser. Please select a favorite family recipe or two and submit to CBTsisterhood2026@gmail.com.

We are discussing some new social events, possibly crafting at a local studio. We would like the events to be interesting and attractive to members and their spouses. We want to be able to be inclusive of working members. If you have any suggestions, please contact me.

It is not too late to join Sisterhood. We have 40 members with a goal of 50. If you have any ideas for Sisterhood social activities, please share those ideas! We would like to plan some fun and interesting activities!

I look forward to meeting those I haven’t and to seeing all of you!

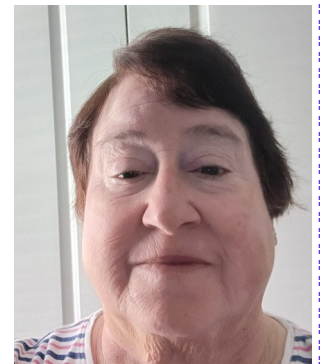
### **CBT Sisterhood Board of Directors;**

- President..... Eileen Surrey
- Vice President ..... Barbara Kusnick
- Vice–President Programing..... Netta Weiner
- Vice -President Fundraising..... Sema Friedman
- Secretary..... Laura Ashkenazi
- Treasurer .....Lea Moskowitz
- Membership Chair ..... Marcia Bergman

**Eileen Surrey, President 386-236-9939**

[Download the CBT Sisterhood Membership Application](#)

[HERE](#)



*Congrats  
To  
Sisterhood  
on their  
Fabulous  
Bat Mitzvah  
catering!!*



**CONGRATULATIONS!**

# MEN'S CLUB®

**By Ken Haberman**

The Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs (FJMC), Florida Region, held a “Mind, Body & Spirit” Shabbaton Retreat the weekend of February 20th to 22nd, hosted by Temple Beth Shalom of Palm Coast. Mark Givarz, Jerry Leibman and I attended and had a great time and learned a lot. For those of you who don't know what “Shabbaton” means (including me), it is a Jewish educational or social retreat held over Shabbat, designed to provide an immersive experience of rest, community, and inspiration. We were fortunate to have Special Guests Rabbi Noam Raucher, Executive Director of FJMC International, Gary Katz, Executive VP of FJMC International, and author Artie Gardella who wrote the book “Because You Have a Bucket List”.

The goal of the retreat was to renew connection to Jewish heritage and wisdom, deepen bonds by sharing meals, songs, and services, Tefillin instruction, and participation in nature and exercise events like wellness walks and calisthenics. We even had the pleasure Saturday evening of a “Havdalah and Kosher Shish-Kabob at the Beach” at the Sea Colony Clubhouse.

One of the activities that promoted a sense of community was “Hearing Men's Voices” presented by Mark. Some of the questions for discussion were:

- What does it mean for you to be a Jewish man today? Everyone here has deliberately chosen to be involved in Jewish life, and how does it impact your identity?
- Who are the Jewish men who have had an impact in your lives, and how? If someone were to list you in that group, what would they say about your impact on them?
- We're all individuals, but we're not alone; we all have friends. Why is it important to you to have Jewish male friends in particular?

Special thanks and appreciation to Lea Moskowitz and the Sisterhood, and Joe Zimmerman, for catering the delicious food for the retreat. Many accolades were expressed for the succulent chicken with apricot and paprika, broccoli kugel, rice pilaf, green beans with almonds, challah, and desserts such as chocolate babka. Rabbi Raucher raved that the broccoli kugel was so good, that it would successfully fill his “kugel fix” until Passover! Yum.

You may still join the Men's Club, only \$36 annual dues. It's a good way to make friends and attend fun activities. CBT Men's Club Officers are President Ken Haberman, Past President Mark Givarz, Vice President Mike Keenum, Treasurer Jerry Leibman, and Secretary Doug McEwen.

Please visit our Men's Club page on the CBT website: <https://mybnaitorah.org/mens-club/>. You are always welcome to contact me at (386) 679-2320, email [kchaberman@hotmail.com](mailto:kchaberman@hotmail.com), or email Mark Givarz at [cbtobmensclub@gmail.com](mailto:cbtobmensclub@gmail.com).

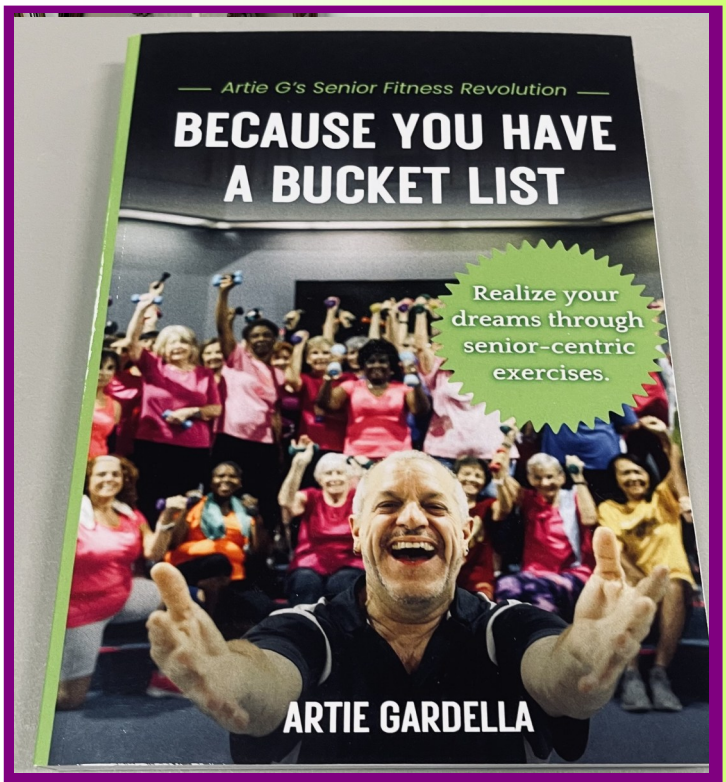
**CBT Men's Club Officers:**

President: Ken Haberman  
Past President: Mark Givarz  
Vice-President: Mike Keenum  
Treasurer: Jerry Leibman  
Secretary: Doug McEwen

Thanks, Ken



# FJMC Region Shabbaton Retreat





# Shabbaton Retreat



# Tree Planting!



Learning  
about  
The Haftorah  
scroll





## An Evening of Culinary Excellence

# 2nd Annual Gala Gourmet Dinner

With a Cause Supporting  
B'nai Torah's Operating Fund  
Sunday, March 8th  
at 4:00 PM—7:00 PM

Silverstein Estate  
784 Sterling Chase Dr.  
Port Orange

Limited Seating,  
55 Individuals,  
\$50.00 per person  
**YOUR PAYMENT IS YOUR  
CONFIRMED RESERVATION**  
Payment by check or credit card

Gourmet Dinner with a NEW ORLEANS TWIST! Famous cuisines and Cultures that have influenced the New Orleans' famous palate are from around the world that include the Caribbean delicacies from Barbara's Hometown & Howard's Famous Smoker and much much more! Featuring the Caribbean, France, Spain, Africa, Italy, Germany and Native America. Some menu highlights are Gumbo, Etouffee, Jambalaya.

Menu planned & executed by Barbara Kusnick and Howard Silverstein

Tantalizing Dessert Bar—A Wine Tasting  
CASH bar with Beer, Wine and Hurricanes!  
Live Music

There will be a Silent Auction of Fabulous Items, including Art, Local Boat Excursions, and Vacation Getaways.

PLEASE RESERVE EARLY, payment must be in the  
CBT office by MARCH 4TH!

Call 386-672-1174 or email [cbtemail@mybnaitorah.org](mailto:cbtemail@mybnaitorah.org) OR  
go to our website [www.mybnaitorah.org](http://www.mybnaitorah.org) to pay online



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OF VOLUSIA & FLAGLER COUNTIES



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Tuesday March 10, 2026

9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Join us at

The Jewish Cultural Center

470 Andalusia Avenue

Ormond Beach, FL 32174

**RSVP a *MUST*: 386-672-0294**

(Suggested Breakfast Donation: \$10.00)

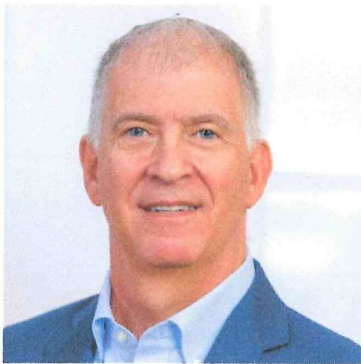


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**Rabbi Dr. Donniel Hartman**



Sunday, March 15, 2026

7:30 PM

Temple Beth El

579 N. Nova Rd., Ormond Beach, FL

*“Who are the Jews and Who Can We Become?”*

Rabbi Dr. Donniel Hartman is president of the Shalom Hartman Institute and holds the Kaufman Family Chair in Jewish Philosophy. He is author of the *Boundaries of Judaism and Putting God Second: How to Save Religion from Itself*. His latest book, *Who are the Jews and Who Can We Become*, was a 2023 Jewish Book Council Award Finalist. Donniel is also the host of the award-winning podcast *For Heaven’s Sake*, together with his colleague Yossi Klein Halevi, which ranks consistently as one of the top Judaism podcasts in the world.

(THERE WILL BE FULL SECURITY AT THIS EVENT.)

JEWISH FEDERATION OF VOLUSIA  
& FLAGLER COUNTIES

*Senior Passover Seder*

*Thursday March 26, 2026*

*11:00 AM*

*Temple Beth- EL*

*579 N. Nova Road Ormond Beach*

*Please RSVP before March 19th to*

*386-672-0294 or*

*federationoffice@cfl.rr.com*



**April 12, 2026  
10am-5pm**

**The Casements  
25 Riverside Drive  
Ormond Beach**

**FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!**

**This Fun Family-Friendly Festival Will Include:**

- Nationally Acclaimed Musical Entertainment!
- Kosher, Deli-style and Mediterranean Food Vendors
- Health and Wellness Fair
- Fun Activities, Matzah Baking and Inflatables for Kids
- Camel Rides, Petting Zoo and More!
- Artists, Craftspeople and Judaica Vendors
- Holocaust Memorial and Jewish Hall of Fame
- Educational and Inspirational Speakers



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**INFO: [JewishHeritageFestival.com](http://JewishHeritageFestival.com)**

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# Fashion Show

Showcasing Clothing by:

DESIGNER COLLECTIONS

# PEPPER'S BOUTIQUE

For more information, call  
Wendy at: 407-310-5547



**Sunday—April 19th**  
**12:30 pm**

Location:

Temple Beth-El Social Hall  
579 N. Nova Rd.  
Ormond Beach, FL



**Cost: \$36 per person**

includes Fashion Show and delicious Box Lunch!

**Join us and enjoy an afternoon of fun, fashion, shopping, and food!**

RSVP by sending a check made out to: WRJ Sisterhood of Temple Beth-El  
(No later than April 12)

Temple Beth-El Fashion Show, Sunday, April 19, \$36/person

*RSVP by April 12*

Complete this form and mail/bring to:

WRJ Sisterhood of Temple Beth-El, 579 N. Nova Rd., Ormond Beach, FL 32174

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# people attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# MENSCH OF THE MONTH

*By our Congregant Ray Leonard*

## **March “Mensch of the Month” Jerry Leibman**

Jerry (Yakov) Leibman has been a beloved member of our Congregation B'nai Torah, these past two years, always with a kind and encouraging word and a helping hand in services and our various organizations. His family name, Leibman, meaning Lion, also reveals another side, a strong character forged in a hard, early life becoming a fierce defender of family, our faith and his fellow employees during his career and long eventful life.

Jerry's family came, as did most of our congregation, from the Pale in Czarist Russia, fleeing the pogroms in the early 20th century.

Jerry's maternal grandfather, Jacob (Yakov Ben Yakov) Spivak, was born, in current day Ukraine but died before his son was born. Jacob's wife Sarah's brother Solomon Potnoy emigrated to India and was able to bring his sister and family to Calcutta. They emigrated to Bermuda, and from there to the United States. The family established a furrier business in Wilkes-Barre. Sarah died when Jerry's mother, Sally, was very young. Sally was then raised by her older sisters. Sally's older brother, Jacob Spivak, went on to become an Orthodox Rabbi, and established a Yeshiva in Monsey, New York. Jerry's paternal grandparents, Max & Dora Leibman, emigrated to the United States about the same time, from the area that is present day Belarus. Max Leibman was a Barber by trade.

Both families settled in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, which surprisingly had one the largest small town Jewish populations in the northeast, predominantly Orthodox. There were four Orthodox, one Conservative, and one Reform Synagogue in the area.

Max's two eldest sons, Irving and Abe, would purchase potatoes and other vegetables from local farms & would set up a roadside stand. When the potatoes started to rot, their father, Max, would turn them into moonshine, a very profitable business until the end of prohibition in 1933.

Max's sons, Irving, Abe, Benjamin, & Nathan served in World War II. Jerry's father, Irving, served in a mixed unit, consisting of Jewish, Puerto Rican, and negro soldiers and encountered a lot of antisemitism. They were assigned to a forward operating base, where they had multiple casualties. Irving made Sergeant, was wounded in combat, and received a Purple Heart. He was saved from German capture by several of his negro fellow soldiers. They knew if he were captured, he would be executed.

Jerry's father Irving and his brother Abe opened a grocery store following the end of World War II. Jerry's father met Sally Spivak, and they were married at the Anshe Emes Synagogue in Wilkes-Barre. Soon after, they had two children, Sandra and Jerry.

***Continued on the next page***

Jerry grew up in a large orthodox Jewish community but relations with the gentiles were not always smooth, and he experienced many instances of antisemitism. He learned to defend himself. In one instance, when a fight resulted in the other kid needing medical attention, when the kid's father complained to Jerry's dad, his father's reply was to back off, or he would need medical attention too. As a teenager, he was part of a patrol that checked on Jewish businesses to avoid vandalism. Jerry enjoyed science fiction, especially the books of Isaac Asimov. To satisfy the family, he received training and obtained a Pa. State Barber License. However, in high school, he became fascinated by computers and felt it offered better long-term opportunities. Upon high school graduation, he studied the new field of computer technology at the local community college. Jerry was a strong student and earned several scholarships, as long as he held up his grades. He then transferred to Wilkes College (later Wilkes University) where he successfully completed his degree in Computer Science as well as Business Management and Accounting.

During his senior year in college, he met his future wife, Ileene, at synagogue. They dated while Ileene was attending Nursing School. Jerry had friends who were bakers, and he would always pick up Russian black bread and bagels for Ileene's family. After two years of dating Jerry and Ileene were married at the B'nai Abraham Synagogue in Easton, Pa.

Jerry's skill with main frame computers was in high demand and in the three years following his college graduation, he worked in a variety of jobs related to Computer Operations, programming, and supervision. His career breakthrough came in 1972 when he was hired as a Civilian Employee, by the Aviation Supply Office (ASO), a Division of the Department of Defense located in Philadelphia.

During his 28-year tenure, through 2000, he was promoted from GS-7 to GS-12 level. In addition to his successful career, he became the local president of the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), Local 1698, negotiating rights for workers, fair and equitable overtime, fair promotions, enhanced safety standards, and other conditions of employment. He successfully implemented a compressed work schedule, consisting of either 9- or 10-hour workdays, giving employees the opportunity to enjoy a 3-day weekend. He also implemented an on base day care center for civilian employees. In 2000, the ASO base Jerry was stationed at came under the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC). His function was being transferred, and he was given multiple options. Jerry decided to take the early retirement option, and fulfilling a lifelong dream, moved to Apopka, Florida, at the age of 52. Since moving to Florida, Jerry has had multiple part time jobs, driving a shuttle bus for Enterprise at the Orlando Airport, driving stretch limos, working at an Assisted Living Center, and selling Nissan cars. In 2022, Jerry and Ileene decided to fully retire and move to Margaritaville in Daytona Beach.

During his active career, Jerry and Ileene raised a family of four daughters: Melissa, Debra, Alicia, & Lisa. The girls have gone on to interesting careers in education and business. Debra enlisted in the Army and served in Afghanistan, Iraq and Kosovo and has also worked for the State Department.

***Continued on the next page***

During his career, Jerry became a Master Mason and moved up the ranks from Junior Deacon to Senior Warden. He turned down the opportunity to become Master of the Lodge, because of his other commitments.

Judaism has always been a core part of Jerry's life. His grandfather, Max Leibman, was president of their synagogue, as was his father. But at times, he has been frustrated by Orthodox rigidity. As a teenager, he often had to work Saturdays at the family grocery and was dismayed at the lack of understanding by the rabbi. He was not allowed to conduct any part of the daily Minyan Service, because he was not Shomer Shabbos, but counted towards the Minyan. During his Bar Mitzvah, when Jerry recited the concluding Shabbat prayers, several members of the Congregation walked out.

He gathered a group of teenagers who were in similar circumstances and held their own services in the basement and eventually joined the local conservative synagogue to help form their Minyan, where they were allowed and encouraged to help conduct services.

His daughters attended a Hebrew Yeshiva but were not allowed to have a Bat Mitzvah. Nevertheless, he has always been a core member of any synagogue his family belonged to, contributing and participating in officer roles. Upon moving to Daytona Beach full-time, he was delighted with the warm reception he has received at our congregation and considers it a home.

Jerry had to deal with antisemitism growing up, as did his father. Upon returning home at the end of the second world war, his father helped form the local chapter of the Jewish War Veterans when membership in the VFW or American legion was not welcome.

Jerry is encouraged by the positive attitudes in our local area. He is also fiercely proud of his Jewish identity, the State of Israel, the IDF, and the miracles the state of Israel has accomplished in technology, medicine, and weaponry. Jerry has faced life on his own terms, never backing down, but also with compassion for his fellow man and his faith. The meaning of his name Leibman; "Lion," is truly appropriate.



## Yahrzeit Donations

Yitzchak Rotstein by Jonathan Rotstein  
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Herbert Henry Bernstein by Barbara Singer  
Irving & Sally Leibman by Jerry Leibman  
Sandra & Nate Leibman by Jerry Leibman  
Shirley Leibman Spitz by Jerry Leibman  
Harold Spitz by Jerry Leibman  
Henry Silverstein by Howard Silverstein  
Fred Valfer by Sylvia Levy  
Lucy Meyer by Don Holbert  
Lillie Cohen by Barbara Singer  
Benjamin Feldman by Norman Feldman  
Lillian Bernstein Tushman by Barbara Singer

*In Memory of Maria Kaufman*

*Pearl & Martin Salkin*

*Thank You for Your Donations to The Rabbi Fund*

*Simon Kaufman*

*Leonard Mandell*

### **Would you like to perform a mitzvah??**

**Our Chevra Kadisha (Jewish Burial Society) is a group of men and women who participate in the mitzvah of caring respectfully for the deceased according to centuries-old Jewish rituals and traditions. Caring for the holy remains is considered a very special mitzvah, one of the most sacred tasks in Judaism, and being a part of the Chevra Kadisha is a blessing for both those who perform it and those who receive it. Please consider this as an invitation and, if you would like to be a part of this holy society, please call:**

**Men call Charlie Moskowitz 386-871-0427**

**Women call Sue Abel 386-846-0431**

# MARCH



## Happy Birthday



- 1 Jillian Youngblood
- 3 Jonathan Rotstein
- 3 Rebekah Jamieson-Keenum
- 5 Robin Cohen
- 7 Dr. Charles Stein
- 9 Karen Chuvén
- 9 Dr. Michael Kohén
- 10 Dr. Marvin Lewis
- 12 Dr. Kenneth Nusbaum
- 12 Mary Dean

- 13 Lyuda Chigirinskya
- 14 Regina Cochran
- 15 Martin Salkin
- 18 Herb Goldberg
- 24 Rabbi Merrill Shapiro
- 24 Leonard Mandell
- 26 Sue Abel
- 26 Shana Freedman
- 27 Ray Leonard
- 29 Joe Zimmermann
- 31 Eileen Surrey

# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- 6 Linda & Don Holbert
- 19 Adrienne & Larry Cooperman

- 24 Harriet & Al Fritts

## EXPRESSIONS OF APPRECIATION

Lynne Ritter thanked Howard Silverstein with a lovely note, “On behalf of all of us at the Community Wide Shabbat, I would like to thank you for your participation in the Service. This was a wonderful evening made better by your involvement. Thank you for representing your wonderful Temple.

Thanks for all of the hard work the School Families are putting in preparing for the Shalom School Purim Carnival at TBE!

Kitchen Angels Catering! Thanks to our fabulous caterers for nourishing our honorable visitors with the NFJMC Conference!

**Delicious!**

Rosh Chodesh Nissan begins at sundown on Wednesday, March 18th and ends at nightfall on Thursday, March 19th.

## **BE A CBT MITZVAH MAVEN!**

**Have an extra hour (or two)? Volunteer!!!**

**We have several homebound congregants who have found a visit from a CBT Family Member is one of the best ways to bring a smile to their faces.**

**Interested in spreading some sunshine?**

**Contact Valerie Kane, our interim Chair of the Visiting Committee at 386-871-9909. You can help assist the elderly members of our congregational family. So please consider joining us with this important mitzvah!**

## **AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE**

**Sharing a link to AJC's website:**

**Resource for reporting Antisemitism to Federal Agencies, Law Enforcement, and Social Media Guidance  
(<https://www.ajc.org/ReportingAntisemitism>)**

## **SPREAD THE NEWS**

**A special congratulations to Jean Dolan on her 105th Birthday next month.**

**See page six for pictures of our "Mathletes" and Social Studies Fair Representatives.**

**Congratulations to all of our student musicians who received awesome evaluations in the All-County gatherings.**



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**MEMORIAL BOARD**

The Sanctuary of Congregation B'nai Torah houses impressive memorial boards.

Memorial plaques with the names of our dearly departed loved ones adorn the boards. A brass memorial plaque with the name of your departed loved one inscribed thereon can be added to the Memorial Board for a donation of **\$350.**

**TREE OF LIFE**

The Sanctuary of Congregation B'nai Torah houses an impressive Tree of Life, donated by Dr. & Mrs. Richard Rhodes. Stylized "Leaves" or "Foundation Stones" celebrate any occasion and will be engraved with the name of the celebrated person(s) and any other appropriate information. A leaf can be added for a donation of **\$118.** For extra special occasions, a limited number of "Foundation Stones" are available for a donation of **\$500.** Please call the office at **(386) 672-1174** if you would like more information about either the Memorial Board or the Tree of Life.



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*Upcoming Events*

**Shabbat services start at 7:00 PM each Friday**

RESERVE THESE DATES

**CBT REGULAR OFFICE HOURS Mon—Fri 9:00 AM—1:00 PM**

Sun	Mar	1	10:00 AM	Shalom School Purim Carnival at Temple Beth-El
Mon	Mar	2	6:00 PM	Megillah Reading & Party
Fri	Mar	6	6:00 PM	Kid & Tot Shabbat/Eli Kisseloff Service
Sun	Mar	8	9:00 AM	Shalom School at CBT
Sun	Mar	8	4:00 PM	2nd Annual Gala Gourmet Dinner
Tue	Mar	10	9:30 AM	Bagel Nosh & Schmooze, Jewish Cultural Center
Tue	Mar	10,17,24,31	7:00 PM	Bible Study with Rabbi Merrill Shapiro
Mon	Mar	16	7:00 PM	CBT Board Meeting In Person at CBT
Wed	Mar	18	4:30 PM	Sisterhood Putt-Putt Golf & Dinner@ Peppers
Tue	Mar	24	1:00 PM	Sisterhood Board Mtg & 2:00 Regular Mtg
Thu	Mar	26	11:00 AM	Senior Passover Seder, Temple Beth-El
Sun	Mar	29	9:00 AM	Shalom School at CBT, Model Seder

**Daylight savings time begins Sunday, March 8th at 2:00 AM**

Officers and Trustees

**President:** Howard Silverstein  
**Vice President:** Mark Givarz  
**Treasurer:** Barbara Singer  
**Secretary:** Rebekah Jamieson-Keenum  
**Trustees:** Sherry Armstrong, Larry Cooperman, Semareva Friedman, Harriet Fritts, Ken Haberman, Alan Kisseloff, Eneida Kwetkus, Charlie Moskowitz, Dawn Marie Mullins & MaryAnn Serkin  
**Religious School Chair:** Valerie Kisseloff  
**Sisterhood:** President, Eileen Surrey  
**Men's Club:** President, Ken Haberman  
**Past Co-Presidents:** Adrienne Cooperman & Robin Freedman

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